LESSON 14

In this lesson we learn the following :

#(1) إذا : It is a *zarf* with a conditional meaning. It is mostly used with a verb in the past tense, **but the meaning is future**, e.g.,

إذا رأيْتَ خالداً فَاسْألْه عن الكتاب 'If [1] you see Khalid ask him about the book.'

إذا جاءَ رَمَضانُ فُتحَتْ أبْوابُ الجَنَّة 'When Ramadân comes the gates of Paradise are opened.'

The Arabic word for 'condition' is *shart* (الشَّرْطُ). There are two parts in the *shart*-construction : the first part is called *shart*, and the second *jawâb al-shart* (جَوابُ الشرْط), e.g., إذا جاءَ رَمَضانُ is *shart*, and فُتحَتْ أبْوابُ الجَنَّة is *jawâb al-shart*.

We have seen earlier that the verb that comes after إذا is mostly *mâdî*. Sometimes *mudâri'* is also used. The verb in the *jawâb al-shart* may also be *mudâri'* as we see in the following line :

والنفْسُ راغبَةٌ إذا رَغَّبْتَها   وإذا تُرَدُّ إلى قليلٍ تَقْنَعُ

'The soul is desirous (of more) if you allow it to desire, but if you turn it towards a little, then it is content.'

The *jawâb al-shart* should take a فَ in the following cases :

1) if it is a nominal sentence, e.g., إذا اجْتَهَدْتَ فَالنَّجاحُ مَضْمُونٌ 'If you work hard success is certain.'

2) if the verb in the *jawâb al-shart* is *talabî*. A *talabî* verb is one containing *amr*, *nahy* or *istifhâm* [2], e.g.,

a) إذا رأيْتَ حامداً فَاسألْهُ عَنْ مَوْعِد السَّفَر 'If you see Hamid ask him about the time of departure.' (*amr*).

1- The word إذا can be translated with 'if' or 'when.'

2- *Istifhâm* (الاسْتفْهامُ) is a question, e.g., أفَهِمْتَ؟.

إذا دَخَلَ أَحَدُكُمُ المسجدَ فَلْيَرْكَعْ رَكْعَتَيْنِ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَجْلِسَ 'If one of you enters the mosque let him perform two *rak'ahs* before he sits down.' (*amr*).

b) إذا وَجَدْتَ المَرِيضَ نائماً فَلا تُوقِظْهُ 'If you find the patient sleeping don't wake him up.' (*nahy*).

c) إذا رأيْتُ بلالاً فَماذا أقولُ لَهُ؟ 'If I see Bilal what should I tell him?' (*istifhâm*).

#(2) We have learnt the *nasab* in Lesson 3, e.g., سُودانيٌّ from السُّودانُ. Now we learn that if a wrod ends in *tâ' marbûtah* (ة) it is omitted prior to the addition of the *yâ'* of *nasab*, e.g., مَكَّةُ : مَكِّيٌّ (not : مَكَّتِيٌّ) -- مَدْرَسَةٌ : مَدْرَسِيٌّ.

Exercises

General :

Answer the following questions.

إذا :

1) Point out the *shart* and the *jawâb al-shart* in each of the following sentences. If the *jawâb al-shart* has فَ, mention the reason.

2) Use إذا in two sentences of your own without using فَ in the *shart*.

3) Use إذا in four sentences of your own. The *jawâb al-shart* should be :

a) a nominal sentence in the first example,

b) an *amr* in the second,

c) a verb with the *lâm al-amr* in the third,

d) and a *nahy* in the fourth.